



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/660,698

09/12/2003

Tsutomu Ohishi

242743US2

7671

22850

7590

11/18/2008

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
1940 DUKE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

YALEW, FIKREMARIAM A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2436

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/18/2008

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com  
oblonpat@oblon.com  
jgardner@oblon.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/660,698	<b>Applicant(s)</b> OHISHI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Fikremariam Yalew	<b>Art Unit</b> 2436	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 and 38-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 and 38-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The office action is in replay to an amendment filed on 08/13/2008. Claims 1, 15, 29, 32, 40, 43 have been amended. Claim 37 were previously canceled. Claims 1-36, 38-50 are pending.

***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-36, 38-50 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-36, 38-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Koga et al (US Patent No 7,313,699 B2).

5. As per claims 1, 15: Koga teaches an image forming apparatus/method in which a plurality of applications can be installed, the image forming apparatus comprising:

user information input part for a user to input user information and user authentication information (See col 3 lines 8-25); an external server communication part, which sends the

Art Unit: 2436

inputted user information to an external server through the internet and receives pre-registered user authentication information from an external server through the network(col 4 lines 13-31 and col 7 lines 29-33); one or more authentication parts, which authentication the user authentication information by comparing on the received pre-registered user authentication information with the authentication information inputted by the user(col 4 lines 13-31 and col 5 lines 44-52); and a use control part for receiving one or more authentication results from one or more authentication parts, and controlling use restriction for one or more applications according to the received one or more authentication results(See col 4 lines 53-63 and col 5 lines 32-43),wherein the external server stores the pre-registered user authentication information independently the apparatus at a separate location on the internet(See col 5 lines 44-52).

6. As per claim 2 and 16: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the use control part refers to information indicating the one or more authentication parts that correspond to an application, causes the one or more authentication parts to perform authentication process when the application is used, and sends an authentication result to the application (See col 4 lines 53-63 and col 5 lines 32-43).

7. As per claim 3 and 17: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the use control part refers to information indicating the one or more applications that correspond to an authentication part, and sends an authentication result of the authentication part to an application in the one or more applications when the application is used (See col 5 lines 32-43 and col 4 lines 53-64).

8. As per claim 4 and 18: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the use control part includes a part for controlling use restriction for a function of the application (See

Art Unit: 2436

col 8 lines 10-25).

9. As per claim 5 and 19: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed wherein the use control part sends an authentication result indicating success of authentication to the one or more applications only when authentication by all of the one or more authentication parts succeeds (See col 8 lines 10-25).

10. As per claim 6 and 20: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed wherein the use control part sends an authentication result indicating success of authentication to the one or more applications when authentication by at least one authentication part in the one or more authentication parts succeeds (See col 10 lines 19-38).

11. As per claim 7 and 21: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the each of the one or more authentication part is an application or an apparatus connected to the image forming apparatus (See col 10 lines 19-38).

12. As per claim 8 and 22: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the pre-registered user authentication information is registered beforehand in external server (See col 4 lines 13-31 and col 5 lines 44-52).

13. As per claims 9, 23 and 38: Koga teaches the use control method wherein the user authentication information includes billing information and pre-registered user authentication information includes available billing information (See col 2 lines 18-29)

14. As per claim 10 and 24: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus the image forming apparatus further comprising hardware resources used for image forming processes, and control services that perform processes of a system side including control of the hardware resources, wherein the image forming apparatus is configured to install a plurality of applications separately

Art Unit: 2436

from the control services(See Figs2 and Fig 5), and the image forming apparatus includes the use control part as a control service(See Figs 2 and Fig5).

15. As per claim 11 and 25: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the user information input part is configured for a user to input user identification information and user authentication information to be pre-registered in external server (See col 4 lines 13-31 and col 5 lines 44-52); the external server communication part sends the user identification information and user authentication information to be pre-registered in the external server input by the user to the external server (See col 4 lines 13-31 and col 5 lines 44-52); and the authentication part determines whether the pre-registered user authentication information received from the external server is same as the user authentication information input by the user, and sending an authentication result to the use control part( See col 4 lines 53-63 and col 5 lines 32-43).

16. As per claim 12 and 26:Koga teaches the image forming apparatus further comprising: a user information receiving part for receiving, from a client terminal, user identification information and first billing information indicating usage of the image forming apparatus by a user to be pre-registered in the external server(See col 3 lines 8-25 and col 2 lines 18-29), wherein the external server communication part sends the user identification information and the billing information to be pre-registered in the external server to the external server and receives the billing information pre-registered in the external server and corresponding to the user information input by the user, from the external server(See col 4 lines 13-31 and col 2 lines 18-29 and col 7 lines 29-33), and the authentication part compares billing information input by a user with the pre-registered billing information received from the external server, and sends a comparing result to the use control part(col 5 lines 44-52 and col 4 lines 13-31).

Art Unit: 2436

17. As per claims 13 and 27: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the client terminal reads the user identification information and the billing information to be pre-registered in the external server from an external recording medium (See col 10 lines 19-38).

18. As per claims 14 and 28: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus as wherein the external server is a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (See Fig 3 steps 208,210,211 and Fig 8).

19. As per claims 29: Koga teaches an image forming apparatus/method in which a plurality of applications can be installed, the image forming apparatus comprising:

user information input part for a user to input user information and user authentication information(See col 3 lines 8-25);an external server communication part, which sends the inputted user information to an external server through the internet and receives pre-registered user authentication information from an external server through the network(col 4 lines 13-31 and col 7 lines 29-33); one or more authentication parts, which authentication the user authentication information by comparing on the received pre-registered user authentication information with the authentication information inputted by the user(col 4 lines 13-31 and col 5 lines 44-52); a display part for displaying a screen, on an operation panel of the image forming apparatus, for selecting one or more applications for the authentication part, in which user authentication by the authentication part is applied to use of the one or more application(See Fig 11 steps S1001 and col 13 lines 41-62);and a use control part for receiving one or more authentication results from one or more authentication parts, and controlling use restriction for one or more applications according to the received one or more authentication results(See col 4 lines 53-63 and col 5 lines 32-43),wherein the external server stores the pre-registered user

Art Unit: 2436

authentication information independently the apparatus at a separate location on the internet(See col 5 lines 44-52).

20. As per claim 30: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus wherein information input from the screen is stored in the image forming apparatus as information indicating the one or more applications corresponding to the authentication part (See Fig 11 step s1002 and col 13 lines 41-62).

21. As per claim 31: Koga teaches teach the image forming apparatus as claimed in wherein the display part displays a screen for selecting one or more functions of an application to which user authentication by the authentication part is applied (See Fig 12 steps S1101,S1104).

22. As per claim 32: Koga teaches an image forming apparatus/method in which a plurality of applications can be installed, the image forming apparatus comprising:

user information input part for a user to input user information and user authentication information(See col 3 lines 8-25);an external server communication part, which sends the inputted user information to an external server through the internet and receives pre-registered user authentication information from an external server through the network(col 4 lines 13-31 and col 7 lines 29-33); an authentication part, which which authentication the user authentication information by comparing on the received pre-registered user authentication information with the authentication information inputted by the user(col 4 lines 13-31 and col 5 lines 44-52); a display part for displaying a screen, on an operation panel of the image forming apparatus, for selecting one or more applications for the authentication part, in which user authentication by the authentication part is applied to use of the one or more application(See Fig 11 steps S1001 and col 13 lines 41-62);and a use control part for receiving one or more authentication results from

Art Unit: 2436

one or more authentication parts, and controlling use restriction for one or more applications according to the received one or more authentication results(See col 4 lines 53-63 and col 5 lines 32-43),wherein the external server stores the pre-registered user authentication information independently the apparatus at a separate location on the internet(See col 5 lines 44-52).

23. As per claim 33: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus wherein information input from the screen is stored in the image forming apparatus as information indicating the one or more authentication parts corresponding to the application (See Fig 11 step s1002 and col 13 lines 41-62).

24. As per claim 34: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the display part displays a screen for setting relationship among the one or more authentication parts (See Fig 12 steps S1101,S1104).

25. As per claim 35: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the display part displays a screen for setting information indicating that user authentication for use of the application succeeds only if authentication by all of the one or more authentication parts succeeds ( See Fig 12 steps S1101,S1104).

26. As per claim 36: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the display part displays a screen for setting information indicating that user authentication for use of the application succeeds if authentication by at least one of the one or more authentication parts succeeds (See Fig 12 steps S1101,S1104).

27. As per claim 39: Koga teaches the image forming apparatus the image forming apparatus further comprising hardware resources used for image forming processes, and control services that perform processes of the system side including control of the hardware resources, wherein

Art Unit: 2436

the image forming apparatus is configured so as to be able to install a plurality of applications separately from the control services, and the image forming apparatus includes the use control part and the display part as a control service(See Figs2 and Fig 5).

28. As per claim 40: Koga teaches an image forming apparatus/method in which a plurality of applications can be installed, the image forming apparatus comprising:

receiving a user information input part for a user to input user information and user authentication information(See col 3 lines 8-25); sending the inputted user information to an external server through the internet; receiving pre-registered user authentication information from an external server through the network(col 4 lines 13-31 and col 7 lines 29-33); an authentication part, which authentication the user authentication information by comparing on the received pre-registered user authentication information with the authentication information inputted by the user(col 4 lines 13-31 and col 5 lines 44-52); a display part for displaying a screen, on an operation panel of the image forming apparatus, for selecting one or more applications for the authentication part, in which user authentication by the authentication part is applied to use of the one or more application(See Fig 11 steps S1001 and col 13 lines 41-62);and a use control part for receiving one or more authentication results from one or more authentication parts, and controlling use restriction for one or more applications according to the received one or more authentication results(See col 4 lines 53-63 and col 5 lines 32-43),wherein the external server stores the pre-registered user authentication information independently the apparatus at a separate location on the internet(See col 5 lines 44-52)

Art Unit: 2436

29. As per claim 41: Koga teaches the use control method further comprising: storing information input from the screen in the image forming apparatus as information indicating the one or more applications corresponding to the authentication part (See Fig 12 steps S1101,S1104).

30. As per claim 42: Koga teaches the use control method further comprising displaying a screen for selecting one or more functions of an application to which user authentication by the authentication part is applied (See Fig 12 steps S1101,S1104 ).

31. As per claim 43: Koga teaches As per claim 40: Koga teaches an image forming apparatus/method in which a plurality of applications can be installed, the image forming apparatus comprising:  
receiving a user information input part for a user to input user information and user authentication information(See col 3 lines 8-25); sending the inputted user information to an external server through the internet; receiving pre-registered user authentication information from an external server through the network(col 4 lines 13-31 and col 7 lines 29-33); an authentication part, which authentication the user authentication information by comparing on the received pre-registered user authentication information with the authentication information inputted by the user(col 4 lines 13-31 and col 5 lines 44-52); a display part for displaying a screen, on an operation panel of the image forming apparatus, for selecting one or more applications for the authentication part, in which user authentication by the authentication part is applied to use of the one or more application(See Fig 11 steps S1001 and col 13 lines 41-62);and a use control part for receiving one or more authentication results from one or more authentication parts, and controlling use restriction for one or more applications according to the

Art Unit: 2436

received one or more authentication results(See col 4 lines 53-63 and col 5 lines 32-43),wherein the external server stores the pre-registered user authentication information independently the apparatus at a separate location on the internet(See col 5 lines 44-52).

32. As per claim 44: Koga teaches the use control method further comprising: storing information input from the screen in the image forming apparatus as information indicating the one or more authentication parts corresponding to the application (See col 18 lines 23-36 and col 21 lines 23-42).

33. As per claim 45: Koga teaches the use control method further comprising displaying a screen for setting relationship among the one or more authentication parts (See Fig 12 steps S1101,S1104).

34. As per claim 46: Koga teaches the use control method further comprising: displaying a screen for setting information indicating that user authentication for use of the application succeeds only when authentication by all of the one or more authentication parts succeeds (See Fig 12 steps S1104,S1105 ).

35. As per claim 47: Koga teaches the use control method further comprising displaying a screen for setting information indicating that user authentication for use of the application succeeds when authentication by at least one of the one or more authentication parts succeeds (See Fig 12 steps S1103, S1104,S1105).

36. As per claim 48: Koga teaches the use control method wherein the pre-registered in the external server (See col 4 lines 13-31 and col 7 lines 29-33).

Art Unit: 2436

37. As per claim 49: Koga teaches the use control method wherein the user authentication information includes billing information is pre-registered user authentication information includes available billing information(See col 2 lines 18-29).

38. As per claim 50: Koga teaches the use control method the image forming apparatus further comprising: installing a plurality of applications separately from control services that perform processes of a system side, wherein the control services receives the one or more authentication results and controls use restriction for the one or more applications according to the received one or more authentication results ( See col 8 lines 10-25 )

### ***Conclusion***

39. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fikremariam Yalew whose telephone number is 5712723852. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Moazzami Nasser, can be reached on 5712738300. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-4195.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Fikremariam Yalew  
11/09/2008  
FA

/Nasser G Moazzami/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit  
2436